

THE ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED CONSERVATIONISTS

Meeting Minutes from February 1st, 2012

At: Pedro's West Madison, WI

ARC President Doris Rusch called the meeting to order at 12:15 PM.

60 paid members and guests were present.

The meal was 8 or \$9.00.

A moment of silence was observed for friends and family who have passed and for our troops who are serving in harms way.

The minutes of the previous months meeting were read, and approved.

Financial Report:

Opening checking balance was \$831.98.

\$200.00 was transferred from savings.

Check issued for \$450.00 to Rick Wojciak for webmaster duties.

Check issued for \$135.00 to Dominick Mangardi for picnic shelter reservation including \$50 deposit.

Check issued for \$10 to Ed Frank for Coalition of Annuitants dues.

Check issued for \$31.59 to Party City for Nametags.

Check issued for \$192.66 to SprintPrint for Membership Directories.

Closing balance is \$ 212.73.

We collected \$64.20 from the lunch proceeds including \$15.50 refund from overcharge @ Vintage Brewery last month.

We collected \$8 from 4 new members.

Opening savings balance was \$1299.31. Closing balance was \$1171.63 including \$.12 interest.

Total balance is \$1384.36.

Guests:

**These persons attended their first meeting:
Dave O'Malley, Karen Trow and Barb Wolf.**

**Guests who attended their second meeting and were voted in as new members:
Larry Sperling, Dave Wood, Jannie Wille and Jim Baumann.**

Frank-n-Miller Report:

Ed Frank reported that the Variable Fund is not doing well. Down 3.3% & may be down 6 to 10% by May. ETF wants us out of variable and not selecting special stocks. It used to be Fixed Funds in Bonds. If you decide to switch from Variable, it will not show in your benefits until May 2013.

Jim Miller reported that COA sent message to all Legislative members that they formally oppose any changes to WRS without complete study done first. Our retirement system is in tremendous financial health. Assembly wants to let UW have option to split from WRS. For more info, see link on website to COA.

Old Business:

Rick Wojciak continues to be our excellent Webmaster. Check out his "What's New" page on the ARC website. Links to COA, SWIB, ETF websites are also available. New employee, obits, trip tips, eBlast and photos are other links. We may also have a PayPal option to pay for picnic and Christmas parties in the future.

New Business:

FL Chapter of ARC meets 2/28/12 in Fort Myers.
Dolly Ledin is requesting volunteers to help mentor middle school students.
Speakers needed for this years luncheons.
Jim Miller borrowed sound system from COA and suggested that we purchase our own.
Motion was made and seconded. Jim Miller and Dave Ives will make report.

Deaths and Illnesses:

The following members passed away in January:
Chuck Rieck, Joseph Corbin, Bill Peterson, Ken Coyle and Bill Byers. See website for obituaries.

Birthdays and anniversaries:

Chuck Pils celebrated his 70th birthday. Floyd Stautz turns 78 in February.
Jerry Dorscheid has been retired for 16 years and Jim Miller for 15 years.

Guest Speaker:

George Meyer spoke on the Panoki Hills Mine proposal from the GTAK Company from the Kline group.
This would be an Iron Ore mine on a 22 mile strip near Copper Falls State Park in a very water rich area. It would affect the Bad River Watershed and Bad River Indian Reservation. Wetlands would be filled. It would also affect hundreds of acres of wild rice and fish and wildlife habitats.
If you wish to give your opinion, please contact your Senator and Assemblyman.

Trips:

Dave Gjeston is on a trip to Thailand And Bruce Chevis just returned from India.

Jokes:

Tom Thoresen and Jim Miller shared several jokes.

Meeting adjourned at 2 pm.